

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 8, 10, 13, 14, 19, 30, 33, 34, and 41-44, without prejudice, please add new Claims 48-59, and please amend Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, 21, 25, 26, 27, 32, 36, and 38, as shown in the following Listing of Claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard and hoop apparatus, comprising:

a basketball backboard and hoop assembly;

a support arm for supporting the basketball backboard and hoop assembly; and

a support element, wherein the support element provides support for the support arm;

wherein the support arm is longitudinally moved along the support element, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is longitudinally moved in the direction of the longitudinal movement of the support arm along a horizontal plane or along a nearly horizontal plane any angle within 45 degrees of

~~or about a horizontal plane~~ from a first position inside a structure to a second position outside the structure, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved to an in-use position.

Claim 2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly further comprises a backboard, and further wherein the apparatus further comprises:

a backboard support member, wherein the backboard support member deploys the backboard into an upright position.

Claim 3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly further comprises a backboard, and further wherein the apparatus further comprises:

a backboard support member, wherein the backboard support member unfolds the backboard to an in-use position or folds the backboard prior to storage.

Claim 4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly comprises a hoop capable of being rotated to an in-use position, wherein the hoop is at least one of rotated in a vertical direction to an in-use position subsequent to the basketball backboard and hoop assembly

being moved to at least one of the second position and the in-use position and rotated in a horizontal direction to an in-use position subsequent to the basketball backboard and hoop assembly being moved to at least one of the second position and the in-use position.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

an electric motor for ~~automatically~~ deploying the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position or for ~~automatically~~ returning the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to ~~the~~ a non-use position.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 5, further comprising:

a computer for controlling the electric motor; and

a shock sensor attached to at least one of the apparatus, the structure, the support arm, the support element, the basketball backboard and hoop assembly, a backboard support member, and the basketball backboard of the basketball backboard and hoop assembly, wherein the shock sensor generates a signal indicative of a use of the apparatus,

wherein the computer processes information generated by the shock sensor, and further wherein the computer detects a period of non-use of the apparatus and automatically returns the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to ~~the~~ a non-use position.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the support arm is moved in an opposite direction, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is longitudinally moved along a horizontal plane or along any angle within 45 degrees of or about a horizontal plane from the second position to a stored position inside the structure.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one mounting element for mounting the support element to the structure.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly comprises a foldable

backboard.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

an electric motor for at least one of ~~automatically~~ deploying the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position or for ~~automatically~~ storing the basketball backboard and hoop assembly.

Claim 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly further comprises:

a backboard, wherein the backboard is an unfoldable backboard.

Claim 16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

an electric motor for automatically deploying the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position.

Claim 17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

an electric motor for automatically returning the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to a non-use position.

Claim 18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the in-use position is outside the structure and a non-use position is inside the structure.

Claim 19. (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of an automatic timer and a sensor for sensing darkness, daylight, noise, motion in the vicinity of the structure in which the apparatus is mounted or to which the apparatus is mounted, rainfall, snowfall, and an environmental condition,

wherein the at least one of an automatic timer and a sensor for sensing darkness, daylight, noise, infrared heat from a player, an impact or impact motion upon the basketball

backboard apparatus, a light beam break from a basketball, motion in the vicinity of the structure in which the apparatus is mounted or to which the apparatus is mounted, rainfall, snowfall, and an environmental condition, activates at least one of an electrical motor and a mechanical device to at least one of deploy the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position and retract the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to a non-use position or to the position inside the structure.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard and hoop apparatus, comprising:

a basketball backboard and hoop assembly;

a support arm for supporting the basketball backboard and hoop assembly; and

a guiding device,

wherein the support arm is longitudinally moved along the guiding device, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved in the direction of the longitudinal movement of the support arm ~~or rotated at least one of~~ through or along a horizontal plane or axis or a nearly horizontal plane or axis, ~~through or along a vertical plane or axis, through or along~~

~~any angle of rotation, through or along any angle of inclination,~~
~~and any combination thereof,~~ from a first position inside a
structure to a second position outside the structure, and further
wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved to an
in-use position.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of
Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly
further comprises a backboard, and further wherein the apparatus
further comprises:

a backboard support member, wherein the backboard
support member deploys the backboard into an upright position.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of
Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly
further comprises a backboard, and further wherein the apparatus
further comprises:

a backboard support member, wherein the backboard
support member unfolds the backboard to an in-use position or
folds the backboard prior to storage.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of
Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly

comprises a hoop capable of being rotated to an in-use position, wherein the hoop is at least one of rotated in a vertical direction to an in-use position subsequent to the basketball backboard and hoop assembly being moved to at least one of the second position and the in-use position and rotated in a horizontal direction to an in-use position subsequent to the basketball backboard and hoop assembly being moved to at least one of the second position and the in-use position.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising:

an electric motor for ~~automatically~~ deploying the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position or for ~~automatically~~ returning the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the non-use position.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising:

a computer for controlling the electric motor; and

a shock sensor attached to at least one of the basketball backboard and hoop assembly and the basketball backboard, wherein the shock sensor generates a signal indicative

of a use of the apparatus,

wherein the computer processes information generated by the shock sensor, and further wherein the computer detects a period of non-use of the apparatus and automatically returns the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to ~~the~~ a non-use position.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the support arm is moved along the guiding device in an opposite direction, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is ~~longitudinally~~ moved along a horizontal plane or along any angle within 45 degrees of or about a horizontal plane from the second position to a stored position inside the structure.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is deployed for use outside the structure.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the support structure further comprises:

at least one mounting element for mounting the guiding device inside the structure.

Claim 30. (Canceled)

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly comprises a foldable backboard.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising:

an electric motor for at least one of ~~automatically~~ deploying the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position or for ~~automatically~~ storing the basketball backboard and hoop assembly.

Claim 33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Canceled)

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly further comprises:

a backboard, wherein the backboard is an unfoldable backboard.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of
Claim 21, further comprising:

an electric motor for ~~automatically~~ deploying the
basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of
claim 36, further comprising:

a computer for controlling the operation of the
electric motor.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of
Claim 21, further comprising:

an electric motor for ~~automatically~~ returning the
basketball backboard and hoop assembly to a non-use position.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of
Claim 38, further comprising:

a computer for controlling the operation of the
electric motor.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of

Claim 21, wherein the in-use position is outside the structure and a non-use position is inside the structure.

Claim 41. (Canceled)

Claim 42. (Canceled)

Claim 43. (Canceled)

Claim 44. (Canceled)

Claim 45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the first position is a stored position.

Claim 46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of a garage door opener motor, an actuation device, and a mechanism, wherein the at least one of a garage door opener motor, an actuation device, and a mechanism, is used in at least one of deploying and storing the basketball backboard and hoop assembly, and further wherein the at least one of a garage door opener motor, an actuation device, and a mechanism, is also capable of being used in at least one of opening and closing a garage door.

Claim 47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising:

at least one of a garage door opener motor, an actuation device, and a mechanism, wherein the at least one of a garage door opener motor, an actuation device, and a mechanism, is used in at least one of deploying and storing the basketball backboard and hoop assembly, and further wherein the at least one of a garage door opener motor, an actuation device, and a mechanism, is also capable of being used in at least one of opening and closing a garage door.

Claim 48. (New) A basketball backboard and hoop apparatus, comprising:

a basketball backboard and hoop assembly, further comprising:

a basketball backboard, and

a hoop;

a support arm for supporting the basketball backboard and hoop assembly; and

a guiding device or a support element,

wherein the support arm is longitudinally moved along the guiding device or the support element, and further wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved in the direction of the longitudinal movement of the support arm from a first position inside a structure to a second position outside the structure, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved to an in-use position, and further wherein the basketball backboard is deployed to an upright position subsequent to the basketball backboard and hoop assembly being moved outside the structure.

Claim 49. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the basketball backboard is deployed to an in-use position and an up-right position subsequent to the basketball backboard and hoop assembly being moved to the in-use position.

Claim 50. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved at least one of through or along a horizontal plane or axis or a nearly horizontal plane or axis, through or along any angle within 45 degrees of or about a horizontal plane or axis, through or along any angle of rotation, through or along any angle of inclination, and any combination thereof.

Claim 51. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, further comprising:

a motor, wherein the motor effects a movement of the support arm.

Claim 52. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is used for indoor play while in the in-use position.

Claim 53. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is used for outdoor play while in the in-use position.

Claim 54. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is used for indoor play while in the in-use position.

Claim 55. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is used for outdoor play while in the in-use position.

Claim 56. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is used for

indoor play while in the in-use position.

Claim 57. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is used for outdoor play while in the in-use position.

Claim 58. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved through an aperture dedicated for movement of the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position.

Claim 59. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the basketball backboard and hoop assembly is moved through an aperture dedicated for movement of the basketball backboard and hoop assembly to the in-use position.